

Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

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April 24, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
South Dakota Congressional Representative
331 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

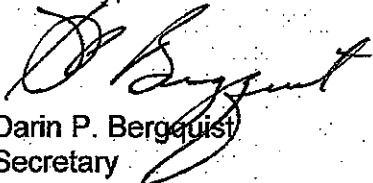
Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

I fully support the reconstruction of South Dakota 73 from the Bennett/Jackson County line to north of South Dakota 44 on the Pine Ridge Reservation. This project is in the STIP and has been fully vetted before the public.

South Dakota 73 is currently a narrow two-lane roadway serving as one of the major north/south connectors to the Pine Ridge Reservation. It is also part of state's Preferred Truck Network and is a major commercial route in South Dakota. The project design will widen the existing roadway to provide additional room for vehicles to safely negotiate through the corridor.

The project will improve the safety, economic productivity and traffic flow of this highway. In addition, the improved roadway will provide a better connection for the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations. I respectfully request your support of this important project because it is economically and environmentally beneficial for our state's citizens and the tourists who visit South Dakota.

Sincerely,



Darin P. Bergquist
Secretary

Attachment